

TYPHOON LEWIS (08W)

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Forming in the Philippine Sea, Typhoon Lewis was the first in a series of five significant tropical cyclones to occur during July. As it tracked west-northwestward, Lewis made landfall three times, over the central Philippines, Hainan Dao, and Vietnam, before dissipating over Thailand.

II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

July

040600Z - Persistent convection within the monsoon trough, east of the Philippine Islands, resulted in the first mention of the disturbance in the Significant Tropical Weather Advisory.

060630Z - A Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert was issued when satellite image animation revealed an increase in the amount and curvature of the convection.

070000Z - The first warning on Lewis was issued based upon the first daylight satellite image with an intensity estimate of 25 kt (13 m/sec).

081200Z - Following a synoptic report of 998.9 mb near the circulation center and supported by satellite intensity estimates, Lewis was upgraded to a tropical storm. Post analysis indicates Lewis most probably attained tropical storm intensity 12 hours earlier at 080000Z.

100000Z - Satellite intensity estimates of 65 kt (33 m/sec) resulted in Lewis being upgraded to a typhoon (Figure 3-08-1).

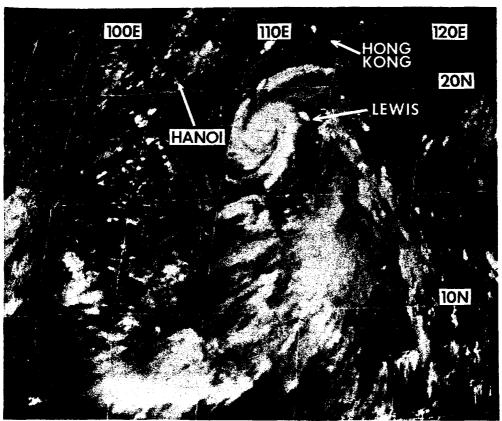


Figure 3-08-1 Tight coils of convection define Lewis shortly before the typhoon makes landfall on Hainan Dao (100530Z July visual GMS imagery).

121200Z - The final warning on Lewis was issued as the tropical cyclone rapidly weakened over the mountains of Southeast Asia.

III. IMPACT

News releases from Vietnam attributed two deaths, two injuries, and eight people missing to Lewis' passage. In northeast Thailand, flash floods damaged farmlands and more than 100 roads and bridges as the remnants of Lewis tracked westward.